Scales of Accountants in NDMC

1604. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVAT-TOM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be please to state

(a) whether the SS Scales granted to the Accountants (SSSA) of NDMC were later on withdrawn;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the resolution in which the NDMC took the decision of withdi awing the benefit from Accountants (SSSA);

(c) whether the Accountants were promoted from the post of HA and the withdrawal of the application of SS scales to Accountants have put the Ac countants in a lower scale than the HAs; and

(d) if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken for removing the anomaly adn giving due justice to the Accountants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (d) According to the NDMC, SS scales were not granted to SSSA Accountants and, therefore, the question of their wihdra-wai does not arise. The SSSA Accountants who were promoted from the posts of HA are now in the lower scale. The New Delhi Municipal Committee has decided to grant SS Scales to all the employees, subject to approval of L. G. Delhi.

Increase in Minimum Support price of Tobacco

1605. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHA-NA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the minimum support price of Tobacco;

(b) whether it is a fact that Tobacco growers at a meeting held recently de manded for the increase in the minimum support price of tobacco by 30 per cent; if so, what action Government 'nave taken thereon; and

(c) what decision Government have taken to fix the price of tobacco On a different footing, as 60 per cent of quality Virginia tobacco is consumed by foreig ners?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) No, *Sir.*

(b) Yes, Sir. The demand has been noted.

(c) The demand of. the tobacco growers would be kept in view while considering minimum support price for 1989-90 season.

Prices of Natural Rubber

1606. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHA-NA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of natural rubber currently prevailing in the country are the 'highest in the world;

(b) whether the prices of natural rubber are fixed on the basis of cost of production; if not, what are the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether the prices of natural rubber are based on the wholesale price index of plantation crops; if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Presently the Indian and International prices are more or less at the same level.

(b) and (c) Government has prescribed a price band which also provides for release of imported rubber to the consumers. The buffer stocking scheme ensures remuneratve returns to the growers while simultaneously ensuring steady sup. ply of rubber to users at reasonable price.